

99-137
MAY 10 1999

May 4, 1999

Lester Snow
Executive Director
CALFED Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street #1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: South Delta Improvement Plan

Dear Lester,

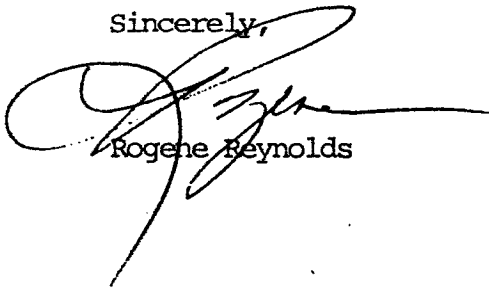
It has been said before, but bears repeating once again: TOP DOWN planning, without considering the true impact to local landowners, will doom CALFED's program to failure.

The recent South Delta Improvement Plan is a prime example of CALFED's failure to deal with the real world. The SDIT met behind closed doors, then brought proposals to the public meetings which were questioned. Our comments and concerns WERE NOT incorporated into the final two alternatives presented April 30.

Lester, you said long ago, you wanted to "get beyond bumper stickers". I'm sorry, but the way CALFED staff responds to our concerns only results in distrust and disgust. For example - we have opposed conversion of prime farmland to habitat - and the SDI plan looks for 40,000 acres. And how can the water exports be doubled, a single barrier close the flow of Old River, no tidal barriers be operated, and STILL ensure water in the South Delta for us to irrigate our crops? Oh, yes, and dredge 1,000,000 cubic yards to deepen channels and beg water from the reaches above us? Lester, we discussed these problems over a month ago with the SDIT, and the agencies ignored us.

I doubt the Policy Committee knows of our concerns. I wonder if they will be surprised to see CALFED's options in court.

Sincerely,



Rogene Reynolds

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